

## SEA TURTLE BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE LOG

The purpose of this log is to record body measurements, scute counts and biological samples taken from all incidentally taken sea turtles. For more detailed instructions on incidental take sample collection, refer to the Sea Turtle Incidental Take and Biological Sampling Guidelines section of the NEFSC Observer Program Training Manual.

Do not record information on terrapins on this log. These animals should be recorded on the Individual Animal Log.

### INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header fields **A**, **B** and **C**, refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

If any of the measurements cannot be collected, record a dash (-) in the field and record the reason why it wasn't obtained in COMMENTS.

**1. PSID #:** Record the consecutive identification number (Protected Species ID) for each animal that is sampled during this trip. This should be the same number as recorded on the Incidental Take Log.

**2. SPECIES NAME:** Record the complete common name of each incidentally taken sea turtle biologically sampled on this trip, as listed in Appendix A. Species Names.

**NOTE:** If it is not possible to make a positive species identification, identify the animal to the most specific generic group of which you are positive, *i.e.* Cheloniidae, *etc.* **DO NOT GUESS AT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION.**

**3. SCANNED:** Indicate whether or not all four flippers, head and shoulder areas were scanned for the presence of PIT Tags by recording the appropriate one digit code:

0 = No.  
1 = Yes.

**4. PIT TAG NUMBER:** If a PIT Tag is present and detected by a PIT Tag Scanner record the complete al-

phanumeric number here.

**NOTE:** If the turtle is scanned for the presence of PIT Tags and none are found, record a dash (-) in this field.

### MEASUREMENTS

Measurements are taken to the nearest **tenth** of a centimeter, over the curvature of the carapace (curvilinear), using a tape. If epibiota affect any of these measurements, record the details in COMMENTS.

**5. TOTAL LENGTH:** (Notch to tip) - Record the curvilinear length measurement of the carapace from the nuchal notch to the posterior marginal **tip**. See Figure 1.

**6. NOTCH LENGTH:** (Notch to notch) - Record the curvilinear length measurement of the carapace from the nuchal notch to the posterior marginal **notch**. See Figure 1.

**7. WIDTH:** Record the curvilinear width measurement of the carapace across the widest part of the shell. See Figure 1.

**8. VERTEBRAL SCUTE COUNT:** Record the number of vertebral scutes on the carapace of the turtle.

**NOTE:** The vertebral scutes are the plates that run down the middle of the carapace. See Figure 2.

**9. LATERAL SCUTE COUNT:** Record the number of lateral scutes on the carapace of the turtle.

**NOTE:** The lateral scutes are the plates that run on either side of the midline vertebral scutes. See Figure 2.

**10. INFRAMARGINAL SCUTE COUNT:** Record the number of inframarginal scutes on the carapace of the turtle.

**NOTE:** The inframarginal scutes are the plates that run down either side of the plastron, between the front and rear flippers. See Figure 2.

**11. 1 PAIR PREFRONTALS?:** Indicate whether or not the sea turtle has one pair of prefrontal scales by recording the most appropriate one digit code:

0 = No.

1 = Yes.

**NOTE:** The prefrontal scales are the scales between the eyes of the turtle. There should be either one or two pairs. See Figure 2.

**12. OVERLAP SCUTES?:** Indicate whether or not the sea turtle has overlapping scutes on the carapace by recording the most appropriate one digit code:

0 = No.

1 = Yes.

**13. DORSAL COLOR CODE:** Indicate the dorsal coloration of the sea turtle by recording the most appropriate 2 digit color code:

00 = Unknown.

01 = Black.

02 = Gray-Green.

03 = Orange/Red-Brown.

04 = Brown.

99 = Other, record the color in the COMMENTS section.

**14. WHOLE ANIMAL RETAINED?:** Record "1" if the sea turtle is retained by the observer to be brought to shore. Record "0" if the sea turtle is not retained.

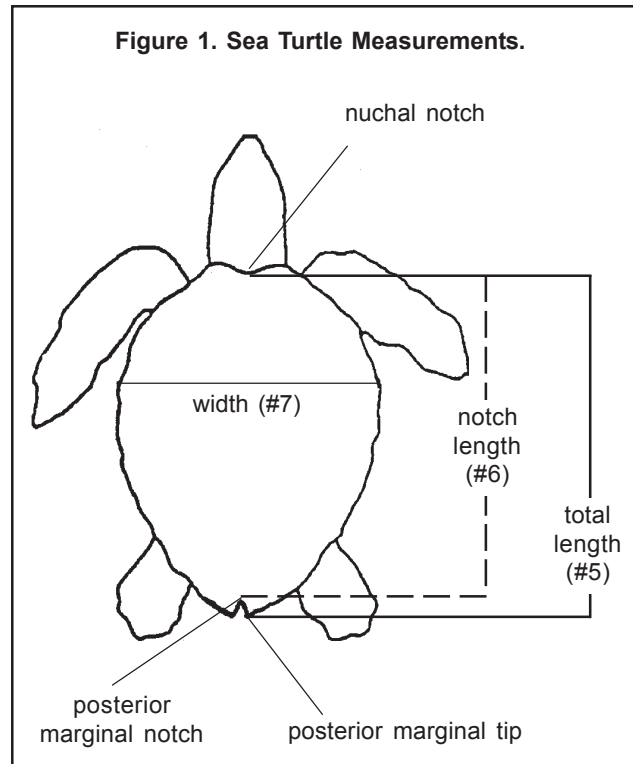
## SAMPLES

For the following fields, record the **total number** of samples taken. If a sample is not taken, or if the sea turtle is retained whole, record a "0" (zero).

## 15. BIOPSY/SKIN?

**16. OTHER?:** Record the number of additional samples collected.

**NOTE:** If any additional sample(s) is (are) collected from this sea turtle, record which ones in COMMENTS.



## COMMENTS

### Animal specific:

For **each animal** the observer must sketch and describe identifying characteristics, condition, marks, scars, gear on the animal, injuries, etc. Reference each description with the animal's unique PSID # (#1).

### General:

Record any additional information regarding the sea turtle incidental take(s), especially when data are unable to be collected. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name.

